

full advantage of the great opportunities before our two nations.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. The Office of the Press Secretary also released this joint statement in Spanish. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President Fox in Monterrey

March 22, 2002

Señor Presidente, Marta, *Gobernador*, distinguished guests, Laura and I thank you for this dinner. And thank you for inviting us to Monterrey, a city that is home to so much of Mexico's industry and enterprise and a city that embodies Mexico's prosperous future.

Monterrey has hosted a number of U.S. Presidents over the years, *mi papá*, President Clinton, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When Presidents Camacho *y* Roosevelt met here in April of 1943, they affirmed our two nations' World War II alliance and agreed to closer economic cooperation. Today we meet with a similar purpose. We affirm our shared struggle against terror, and we work to promote the great alternatives to terror: prosperity and freedom and hope.

President Fox, I deeply appreciate your friendship and counsel, especially since September the 11th. And the people of the United States are grateful for your visit to Ground Zero in New York to honor the victims. And the world appreciates Mexico's support for the international coalition against terrorism. The terrorists have declared war on civilization itself, and the civilized world will defeat them.

It wasn't all that long ago that Laura and I used to live right next door to Mexico. During that time, I saw the steady emergence of a more confident and more hopeful nation. I saw the strong and growing ties of culture and trade and kinship between our countries. Mr. President, your election symbolized these changes and has reinforced them. You're a true patriot with a compelling vision for a stronger and more prosperous Mexico.

I tell the people of my country that a strong and prosperous Mexico is good for the United States. We're working well together, and I am confident our important work is just the beginning. We will build on the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement, to expand the benefits of trade and markets to all of our people. We can build on our political cooperation to make real progress on drug trafficking, environmental protection. And we will build a border that is more open and more secure, and we will confront the issue of migration in a spirit of mutual respect.

The Mexican proverb tells us, *Tenemos mal los momentos, es cuando se conocen al los amigos*.

Señor Presidente, the United States knows who our friends are, and your enduring friendship allows me—causes me to say, *muchas gracias*. Today, we have a relationship of unprecedented closeness and cooperation. By continuing to work together, we can improve the lives of the people in our two nations, in our hemisphere, and in our world.

Mr. President, I offer a toast to you, your gracious wife, and the great friendship between our two countries.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey. In his remarks, he referred to President Fox's wife, Marta Sahagun de Fox; and Gov. Fernando Canales of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

March 23, 2002

Good morning. This week I'm traveling in Latin America, visiting three strong American allies—Mexico, Peru, and El Salvador—to reaffirm the central importance I place on American relations with the rest of our hemisphere.

Our country's future is closely tied to the success and security of our closest neighbors. Problems like drug trade and poverty